

July 14, 2010

Dear Honorable Members of the House, Ways and Means Committee;

As you commemorate 75 years of Social Security, I want Congress to be very clear; many public employees, blue-collar workers, who have dedicated their lives to public service, are going to be unfairly deprived of their earned Social Security rights and benefits.

I have been gainfully employed since I was 14 years old. I worked on a farm, a gas station, and I worked in a factory. I enlisted in the United States Army and was Honorably Discharged. I worked for an armored car company and then a delivery company all before I attained 23 years of age.

In 1984, I had the personal privilege and opportunity to become a career police officer, 26-years ago. In those preceding years, I contributed a significant amount of money to Social Security, enough to earn qualifying quarters for Social Security retirement.

Due to the Windfall Exclusion Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offsets (GPO) my wife and I are going to be deprived of retirement income I earned over a lifetime making compelled contributions.

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall social security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package.

Yours truly,

Mark E. Maass
MA